

Amendments to the Claims:

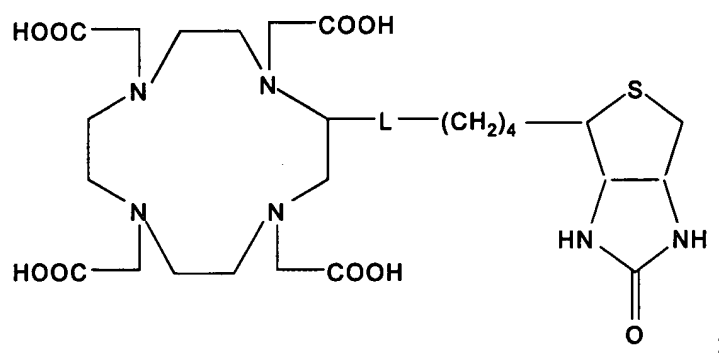
Please amend claims 18 and 19 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

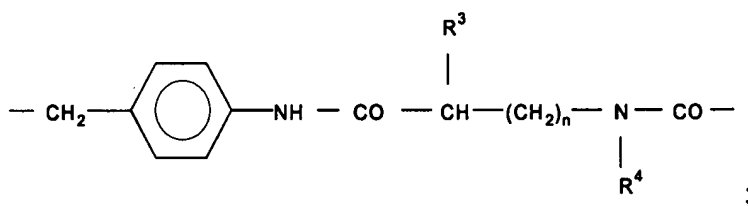
Listing of Claims:

1.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A biotin-DOTA conjugate of the following formula:



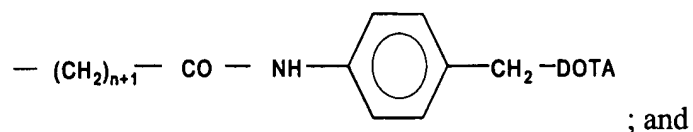
wherein L is a linker of the formula



wherein

R^3 is hydrogen; an amine; lower alkyl; a hydroxy-, sulfate- or phosphonate-substituted lower alkyl; a glucuronide; or a glucuronide-derivatized amino acid;

R^4 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or



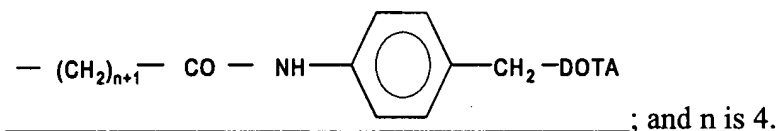
n ranges from 0-4, wherein R³ and R⁴ cannot both be hydrogen.

17. (Original) A biotin-DOTA conjugate according to claim 16 wherein R⁴ is lower alkyl.

18. (Currently Amended) A biotin-DOTA conjugate according to claim 16 wherein

R³ is hydrogen;

R⁴ is CH₃ or



19. (Currently Amended) A biotin-DOTA conjugate according to claim 16 wherein

R³ is hydrogen;

R⁴ is CH₃ or

